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CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA.

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CENSUS OF THE COMMONWEALTH, 30TH JUNE, 1954.

No. 32 : RELIGIONS OF THE POPULATION : AUSTRALIA.

This statement shows the population of each State and Territory of Australia as at the Census of 30th June, 1954, classified according to religious denominations, and is the second in a series which will deal with details of the characteristics of the Australian population at Census date.

Summary No. 30, relating to single ages and to the conjugal condition of the population, has already been issued; and similar statements for other characteristics of the population (i.e., birthplace, nationality, period of residence, industry and occupational status) will be issued as the information becomes available. A Summary of Population for Australia as a whole, containing some analysis and comparisons with the 1947 Census, and corresponding to the Summaries already issued for several of the States, will also be issued at a later date.

All figures shown herein are exclusive of full-blood aboriginals.

It should be noted that the question on the Census form relative to religion is not obligatory, and at the 1954 Census there were 855,819 persons (or 9.5 per cent. of the total population) who gave no reply to it.

TABLE 1. - RELIGIONS OF THE POPULATION IN EACH STATE AND TERRITORY,

CENSUS, 30TH JUNE, 1954.

(Exclusive of full-blood Aboriginals)

Religion	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
				MALES					
Christian -									
Baptist	18,876	16,084	9,580	8,744	3,475	3,082	67	140	60,048
Brethren	2,448	1,479	1,906	238	331	1,100	4	5	7,511
Catholic, Roman (a)	155,095	99,128	68,274	25,110	48,301	14,837	1,859	2,115	414,719
Catholic (a)	268,913	188,492	93,251	40,938	27,343	12,726	788	2,947	635,398
Church of Christ	4,888	15,797	3,260	9,153	3,590	1,083	57	52	37,880
Church of England	731,965	413,591	232,028	111,017	136,802	74,425	3,266	6,103	1,709,197
Congregational	9,874	5,417	4,340	7,292	3,332	2,125	35	93	32,508
Greek Orthodox	17,061	12,219	4,878	5,190	4,183	417	182	252	44,382
Lutheran	8,894	11,785	15,050	21,513	2,046	644	152	222	60,306
Methodist	134,526	122,377	72,577	94,781	33,697	18,785	954	908	478,605
Presbyterian	150,048	158,811	76,139	15,436	19,281	7,778	753	1,552	429,798
Protestant (undefined)	13,851	18,787	5,385	5,944	3,209	1,161	102	100	48,539
Salvation Army	6,046	5,291	3,387	2,867	1,774	868	42	29	20,304
Seventh Day Adventist	4,638	1,906	1,972	786	1,295	542	20	7	11,166
Other (incl. Christian undefined)	10,330	6,967	7,742	2,649	2,600	1,423	155	91	31,957
Total, Christian	1,537,453	1,078,131	599,769	351,658	291,259	140,996	8,436	14,616	4,022,318
Non-Christian -									
Hebrew	9,828	12,211	695	373	1,311	94	5	31	24,548
Other	1,304	1,830	763	540	297	80	73	23	4,910
Total, Non-Christian	11,132	14,041	1,458	913	1,608	174	78	54	29,458
Indefinite	3,606	2,579	1,403	1,000	941	446	41	22	10,038
No Religion	5,946	4,564	2,759	1,287	1,451	371	123	151	16,652
No Reply	162,723	131,784	70,863	49,045	35,099	15,142	1,610	1,386	467,652
GRAND TOTAL	1,720,860	1,231,099	676,252	403,903	330,358	157,129	10,288	16,229	4,546,118
				FEMALES					
Christian -									
Baptist	21,407	18,232	10,533	10,053	3,761	3,211	41	158	67,396
Brethren	2,936	1,782	2,236	278	403	1,247	2	9	8,893
Catholic, Roman (a)	134,542	82,083	57,503	18,682	39,710	12,232	1,032	1,599	347,383
Catholic (a)	285,903	194,951	97,934	41,040	28,135	13,247	600	2,676	664,486
Church of Christ	5,679	17,811	3,491	10,009	4,211	1,184	43	56	42,484
Church of England	734,606	418,882	222,067	112,302	131,333	72,982	2,005	5,476	1,699,653
Congregational	11,406	6,505	4,746	8,358	3,512	2,300	25	92	36,944
Greek Orthodox	12,072	7,902	3,524	3,432	3,030	176	68	174	30,378
Lutheran	8,139	11,108	13,562	20,544	1,825	402	84	208	55,872
Methodist	140,662	130,425	73,879	98,453	34,792	19,451	767	899	499,328
Presbyterian	152,936	167,611	75,447	15,342	18,378	7,829	447	1,454	439,444
Protestant (undefined)	13,512	18,966	4,790	5,497	2,957	996	61	90	46,869
Salvation Army	6,779	6,100	3,737	2,954	1,958	947	30	27	22,532
Seventh Day Adventist	5,838	2,562	2,359	1,007	1,637	738	14	10	14,165
Other (incl. Christian undefined)	11,938	7,981	8,108	2,931	2,892	1,549	141	69	35,609
Total, Christian	1,548,355	1,092,901	583,916	350,882	278,534	138,491	5,360	12,997	4,011,436
Non-Christian -									
Hebrew	9,755	11,805	648	349	1,244	64	3	23	23,891
Other	400	453	303	170	77	18	36	11	1,468
Total, Non-Christian	10,155	12,258	951	519	1,321	82	39	34	25,359
Indefinite	3,189	2,239	994	817	805	350	13	11	8,418
No Religion	2,490	2,073	1,018	498	709	145	29	70	7,032
No Reply	138,480	111,771	55,128	40,475	28,044	12,555	740	974	388,167
GRAND TOTAL	1,702,669	1,221,242	642,007	393,191	309,413	151,623	6,181	14,086	4,440,412

(a) So described in individual Census Schedules.

TABLE 1. - RELIGIONS OF THE POPULATION IN EACH STATE AND TERRITORY, CENSUS, 30TH JUNE, 1954. (Continued).

(Exclusive of full-blood Aboriginals)

Religion	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
				PERSONS					
Christian -									
Baptist	40,283	34,316	20,113	18,797	7,236	6,293	108	298	127,444
Brethren	5,384	3,261	4,142	516	734	2,347	6	14	16,404
Catholic, Roman (a)	289,637	181,211	125,777	43,792	88,011	27,069	2,891	3,714	762,102
Catholic (a)	554,816	383,443	191,185	81,978	55,478	25,973	1,388	5,623	1,299,884
Church of Christ	10,567	33,608	6,751	19,162	7,801	2,267	100	108	80,364
Church of England	1,466,571	832,473	454,095	223,319	268,135	147,407	5,271	11,579	3,408,850
Congregational	21,280	11,922	9,086	15,650	6,844	4,425	60	185	69,452
Greek Orthodox	29,133	20,121	8,402	8,622	7,213	593	250	426	74,760
Lutheran	17,033	22,893	28,612	42,057	3,871	1,046	236	430	116,178
Methodist	275,188	252,802	146,456	193,234	68,489	38,236	1,721	1,807	977,933
Presbyterian	302,984	326,422	151,586	30,778	37,659	15,607	1,200	3,006	869,242
Protestant (undefined)	27,363	37,753	10,175	11,441	6,166	2,157	163	190	95,408
Salvation Army	12,825	11,391	7,124	5,821	3,732	1,815	72	56	42,836
Seventh Day Adventist	10,476	4,468	4,331	1,793	2,932	1,280	34	17	25,331
Other (incl. Christian undefined)	22,268	14,948	15,850	5,580	5,492	2,972	296	160	67,566
Total, Christian	3,085,808	2,171,032	1,183,685	702,540	569,793	279,487	13,796	27,613	8,033,754
Non-Christian -									
Hebrew	19,583	24,016	1,343	722	2,555	158	8	54	48,439
Other	1,704	2,283	1,066	710	374	98	109	34	6,378
Total, Non-Christian	21,287	26,299	2,409	1,432	2,929	256	117	88	54,817
Indefinite	6,795	4,818	2,397	1,817	1,746	796	54	33	18,456
No Religion	8,436	6,637	3,777	1,785	2,160	516	152	221	23,684
No Reply	301,203	243,555	125,991	89,520	63,143	27,697	2,350	2,360	855,819
GRAND TOTAL	3,423,529	2,452,341	1,318,259	797,094	639,771	308,752	16,469	30,315	8,986,530

(a) So described in individual Census Schedules.

TABLE 2. - RELIGIONS OF THE POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA,

CENSUS - 1947 AND 1954.

(Exclusive of full-blood Aboriginals)

PERSONS

Religion	Census, 1947	Census, 1954	Increase or Decrease (-) since 1947	
			Numerical	Percentage
Christian -				
Baptist	113,527	127,444	13,917	12.26
Brethren	13,002	16,404	3,402	26.17
Catholic, Roman (a)	630,198	762,102	131,904	20.93
Catholic, (a)	956,540	1,299,884	343,344	35.89
Church of Christ	71,771	80,364	8,593	11.97
Church of England	2,957,032	3,408,850	451,818	15.28
Congregational	63,243	69,452	6,209	9.82
Greek Orthodox	(b)	74,760	(b)	(b)
Lutheran	66,891	116,178	49,287	73.68
Methodist	871,425	977,933	106,508	12.22
Presbyterian	743,540	869,242	125,702	16.91
Protestant (undefined)	73,270	95,408	22,138	30.21
Salvation Army	37,572	42,836	5,264	14.01
Seventh Day Adventist	17,550	25,331	7,781	44.34
Other (incl. Christian undefined)	57,375	67,566	10,191	17.76
Total, Christian	6,672,936	8,033,754	1,360,818	20.39
Non-Christian -				
Hebrew	32,019	48,439	16,420	51.28
Other	4,543	6,378	1,835	40.39
Total, Non-Christian	36,562	54,817	18,255	49.93
Indefinite	18,708	18,456	(-) 252	(-) 1.35
No Religion	26,328	23,684	(-) 2,644	(-) 10.04
No Reply	824,824	855,819	30,995	3.76
GRAND TOTAL	7,579,358	8,986,530	1,407,172	18.57

(a) So described in individual Census Schedules.
(b) Not available.

The percentages of the adherents of the numerically greater denominations to the total number of persons in Australia who answered the question on religion at the Census were, in 1954 (1947 in parentheses):- Church of England, 41.9 (43.8); Catholic and Roman Catholic (so described), 25.4 (23.5); Methodist, 12.0 (12.9); Presbyterian, 10.7 (11.0); Baptist, 1.6 (1.7); comprising in all 91.6 per cent. (92.9 per cent.) of the total number of persons who answered this question. Of the remaining denominations, the Lutherans were in 1954 the most numerous, constituting 1.4 per cent. of the total (less than 1.0 per cent. in 1947).

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